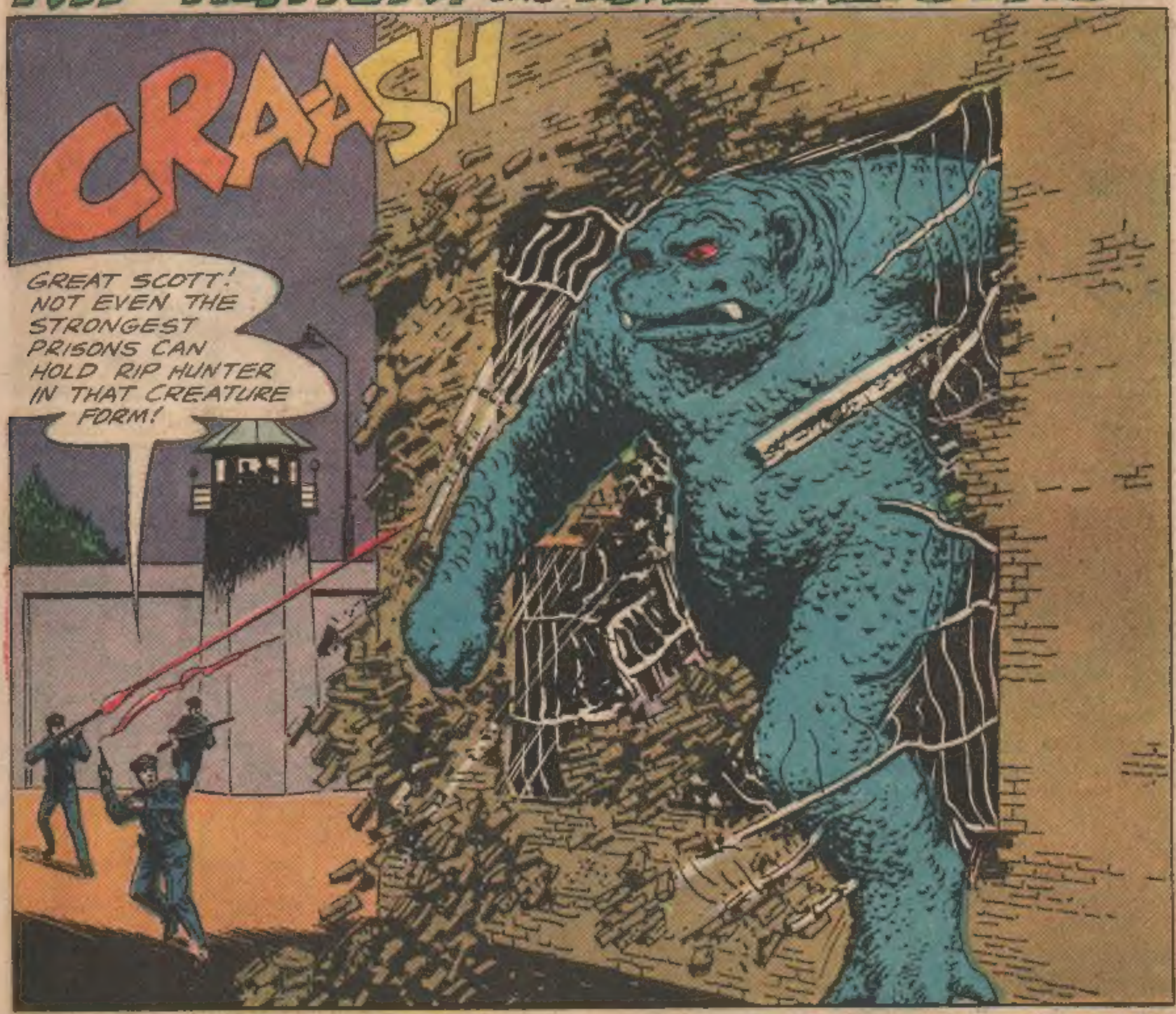
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
CAN ANY POWER ON EARTH DEFEAT "THE TIME CREATURE!"
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Rip Hunter...
TIME MASTER
OCT.
NO. 28
12¢
BEWARE! THIS MAY HAPPEN TO YOU NEXT!
OH, NO! JUST AS THAT LONG-DEAD WIZARD WARNED... HE'S CHANGED RIP INTO A CREATURE!

Rip Hunter... TIME MASTER

FROM OUT OF THE PAST, IT CAME TO HAUNT THE PRESENT-- A SORCERER'S VOW THAT SOUNDED LIKE THE RAVINGS OF A MADMAN! BUT NO MADMAN COULD CONCOCT THE "CURSE" THAT CHANGED RIP HUNTER, THE TIME MASTER, INTO...

RIP HUNTER, the TIME CREATURE



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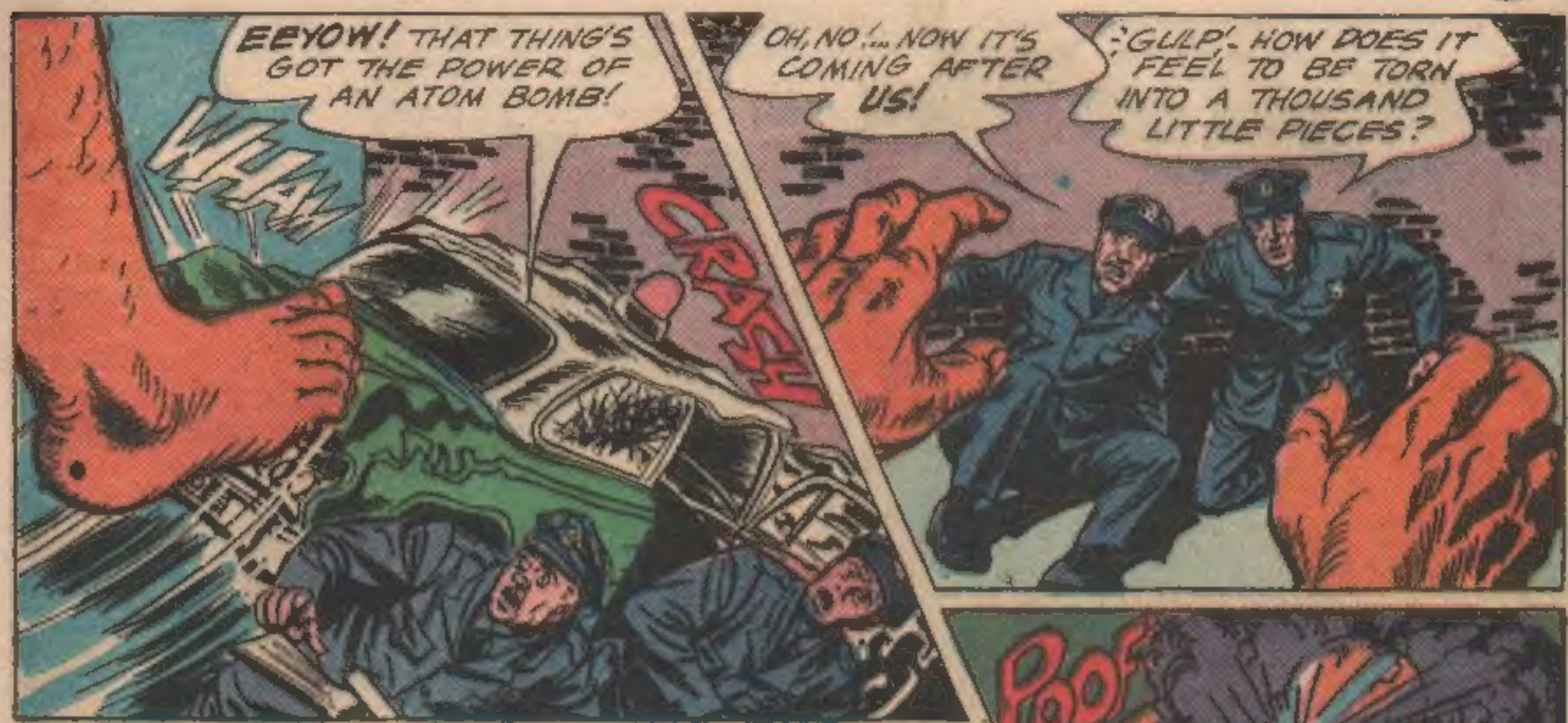
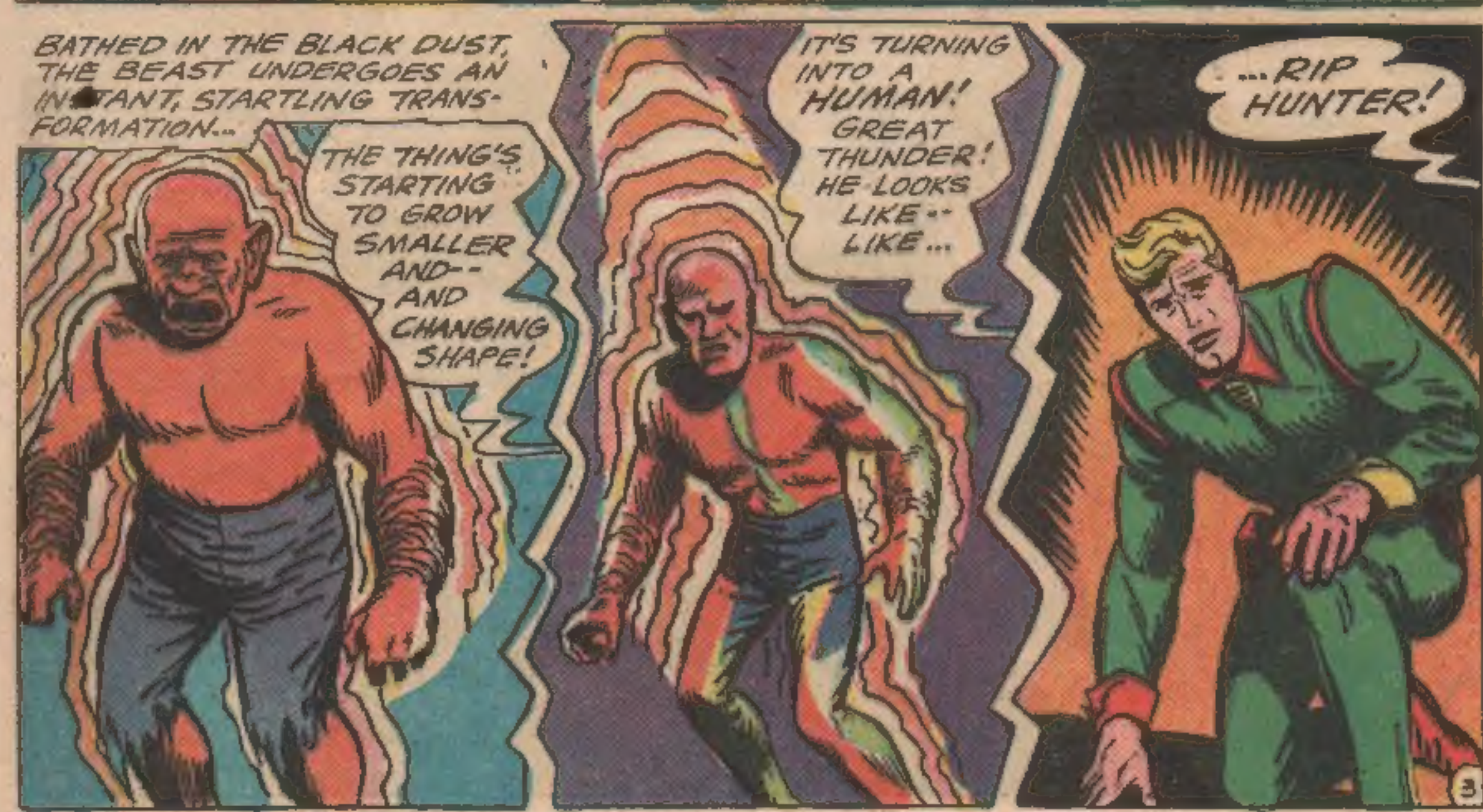
RIP HUNTER... TIME MASTER


EEYOW! THAT THING'S GOT THE POWER OF AN ATOM BOMB!
WHAM
CRASH!
OH, NO!... NOW IT'S COMING AFTER US!
GULP! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE TORN INTO A THOUSAND LITTLE PIECES?

JUST THEN...
THERE HE IS, JEFF! THOSE TWO POLICEMEN... HURRY!
POOF
BULL'S-EYE!


BATHED IN THE BLACK DUST, THE BEAST UNDERGOES AN INSTANT, STARTLING TRANSFORMATION...
THE THING'S STARTING TO GROW SMALLER AND-- AND CHANGING SHAPE!
IT'S TURNING INTO A HUMAN! GREAT THUNDER! HE LOOKS LIKE-- LIKE...
...RIP HUNTER!

YOU ARRIVED WITH THE ANTIDOTE JUST IN TIME... THANKS, JEFF!

FORGET IT, BUDDY-BOY... THE MAIN THING IS, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

MR. HUNTER-- I SAW IT, BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WH-WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

I--I GUESS THERE'S NO POINT IN KEEPING IT A SECRET, CHIEF...

"IT ALL BEGAN WITH A VISIT, RECENTLY, FROM MY OLD FRIEND, PROFESSOR DAWKINS, THE FAMOUS HISTORIAN..."

SO **WHAT** IF YOU UNEARTHED THESE ANCIENT SORCERY DEVICES, PROFESSOR? IF I WERE TO GO BACK AND INVESTIGATE EVERY...

BUT, RIP... KRAKLOW WAS NO ORDINARY WIZARD! LEGENDS ATTRIBUTE THE MOST AWESOME POWERS TO HIM!

OF COURSE, I DON'T BELIEVE THOSE LEGENDS-- BUT IF YOU COULD JUST FIND OUT HOW SUCH STORIES ABOUT KRAKLOW ORIGINATED...

WELL... I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GIVE THE **TIME SPHERE** A SHAKE-DOWN CRUISE ANYHOW... IT MIGHT AS WELL BE FOR THIS!

"BACK AT MY SECRET MOUNTAIN LAB, I ALERTED MY TIME-TRAVEL TEAM FOR ANOTHER TRIP INTO THE PAST..."

REV UP THE SPHERE, GANG... WE'VE GOT A DATE WITH AN 18TH CENTURY POLISH SORCERER!

HO-HUM... **ANOTHER** SORCERER? I THOUGHT YOU GAVE UP INVESTIGATING PHONY WIZARDS!

"SOON, THE DIALS OF THE **TIME SPHERE** WERE SET, AND WE WERE ON OUR WAY..."

"THE SPHERE SPANNED THE TIME-SPACE CONTINUUM WITHOUT A HITCH -- AND BEFORE LONG, WE WERE AT OUR DESTINATION..."

RIP DEAR... JUST WHAT **DO** YOU EXPECT TO DISCOVER WHEN WE FIND THIS KRAKLOW CHARACTER?

NOTHING, BONNIE--EXCEPT, MAYBE, A FEW MAGICIAN'S TRICKS! LET'S JUST CALL THIS ONE A PLEASURE TRIP!

JEEPERS, WHAT AN UGLY-LOOKING PLACE!

RIGHT, CORKY... THAT'S WHY KRAKLOW MADE THIS AREA HIS HOME! THE SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE OF HIS TIME WERE AFRAID TO COME NEAR IT!

"ALL AT ONCE..."

RIP!... WHAT KIND OF CREATURES ARE **THOSE?**

BEATS ME, JEFF! THEY DON'T APPEAR IN ANY TEXTBOOK **I'VE** EVER READ!

SQUAWK

SQUAWK

HEY!... THEY'RE FORCING US DOWN! WHAT DO WE DO **NOW**, BUDDY-BOY?

NOTHING! THIS TRIP'S FINALLY BECOME INTERESTING!

THEY SEEMED TO KNOW JUST WHERE TO TAKE US!

WHUMP

"AS WE EMERGED FROM THE TIME SPHERE..."
WELCOME TO KRAKLOW'S CAVE, STRANGERS! YOUR STRANGE FLYING VEHICLE... IT IS A WORK OF TRUE WIZARDRY!
YOU'RE NOT SO BAD YOURSELF, KRAKLOW, IF YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THESE CREATURES!
YEAH... HOW ABOUT LETTING US IN ON THE TRICK? WE WON'T TELL ANYONE!
¡HA, HA!- THE RASH INTRUDERS THINK I AM A SIMPLE TRICKSTER, EH? FOLLOW ME -- AND YOU SHALL SEE...

"HE LED US TO THE DEPTHS OF HIS EERIE CAVE, WHERE..."
THESE LITTLE STATUES-- RECOGNIZE THEM? THEY ARE THE CREATURES YOU HAVE JUST SEEN-- CREATURES WHO WERE ONCE HUMANS!
Y-YOU MUST BE KIDDIN', BUSTER!

I AM SERIOUS--DEAD SERIOUS ¡HA, HA, HA!¡ THEY ARE CARVED FROM A MAGIC CLAY LEFT TO ME BY MY FATHER! IT IS ALL SO SIMPLE... FIRST, YOU SHAPE IT INTO THE LIKENESS OF ANY HUMAN YOU WISH...
ONCE THAT IS DONE, THE CLAY CAN BE RE-SHAPED INTO ANY FORM I CHOOSE! THE RESULTING CREATURE REMAINS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ONE WHO SHAPED IT!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

;HA, HA,- ON HOW MANY CREATURES WILL YOU USE IT? ALREADY, I HAVE SUMMONED ALL OF THEM TO DESTROY YOU!
EEEK! WATCH OUT, RIP DARLING!

"REALIZING WE WERE OUTNUMBERED, I PULLED OUT MY GUN AND DID THE NEXT BEST THING..."
NO! NO! NOT THE STATUETTES! DON'T DESTROY THE STATUETTES!
BANG BANG BAM BANG
SORRY, KRAKLOW... SUCH POWER DOESN'T BELONG IN THE HANDS OF A GREEDY MAN LIKE YOU! NO ONE SHOULD POSSESS SUCH POWER!
;SOB;- ONCE THE STATUETTE IS DESTROYED, THE CLAY CANNOT BE USED AGAIN ;CHOKE;- AND-- THERE IS NO MORE OF THE CLAY LEFT!
IN THAT CASE, I'D SAY OUR JOB HERE IS DONE! LET'S GO, GANG... WE'LL LEAVE KRAKLOW TO THE PUNISHMENT OF HIS OWN VICTIMS!

"OUTSIDE, AS WE MADE READY TO DEPART..."

YOU MIGHT AS WELL TAKE THAT ANTIDOTE ALONG, JEFF... I'M SURE THE CHEMISTS OF OUR ERA WILL HAVE A BALL WITH IT!

IF THEY **BELIEVE** WHAT JUST HAPPENED HERE... HA, HA, HA!

"ONE FINAL SIGHT GREETED US, AS WE BEGAN OUR RETURN TRIP TO 1965..."

LOOK... THERE'S KRAKLOW, WAVING SOMETHING AT US-- AND SHOUTING!

QUIET... LET'S HEAR WHAT HE'S SAYING!

YOU HAVE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF ME, RIP HUNTER! FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, YOU WILL REMEMBER KRAKLOW! WITH THE SUBSTANCE IN THIS SACK, **KRAKLOW** WILL HAVE THE FINAL LAUGH!

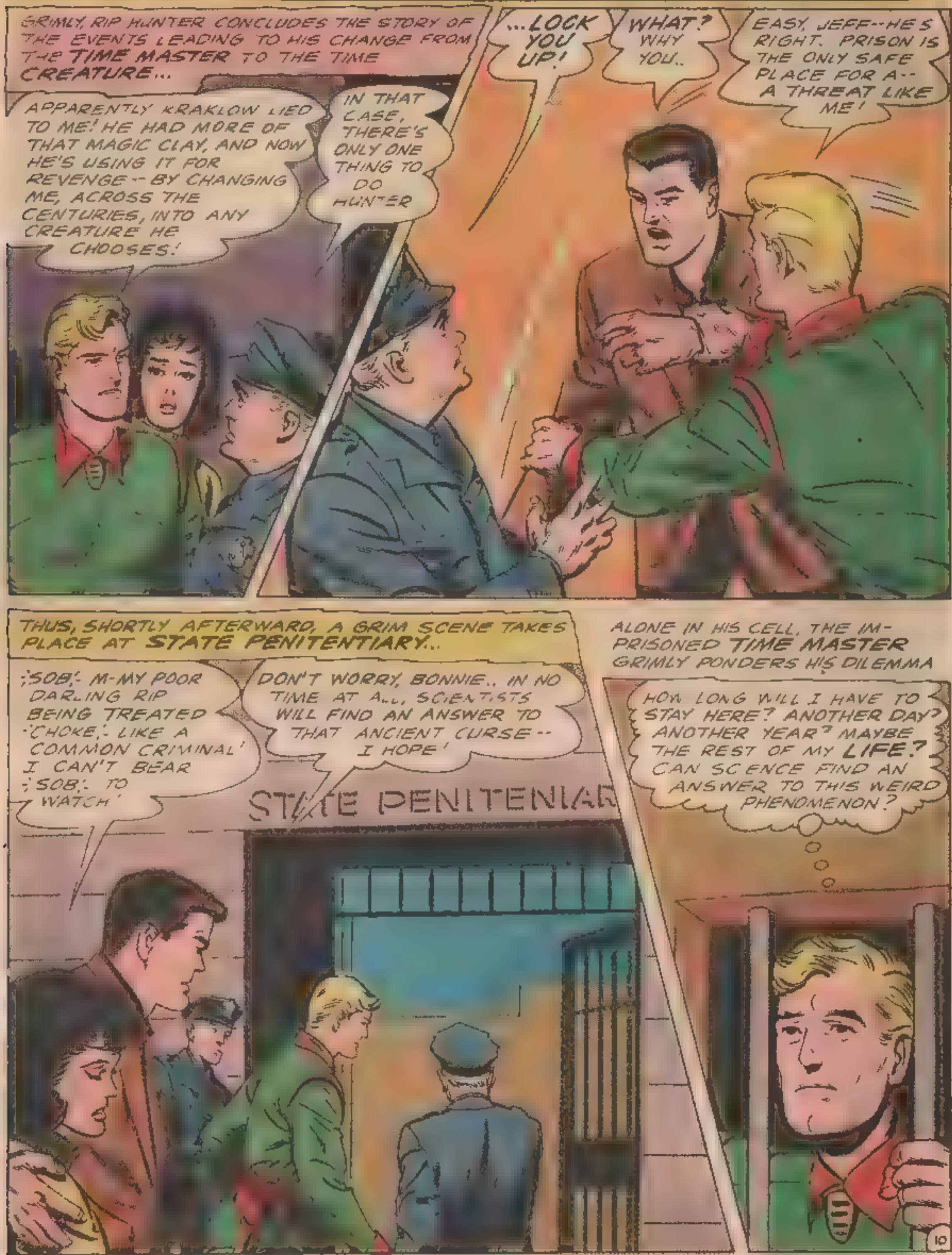
CONTINUED IN PART 2 ON THE NEXT PAGE...

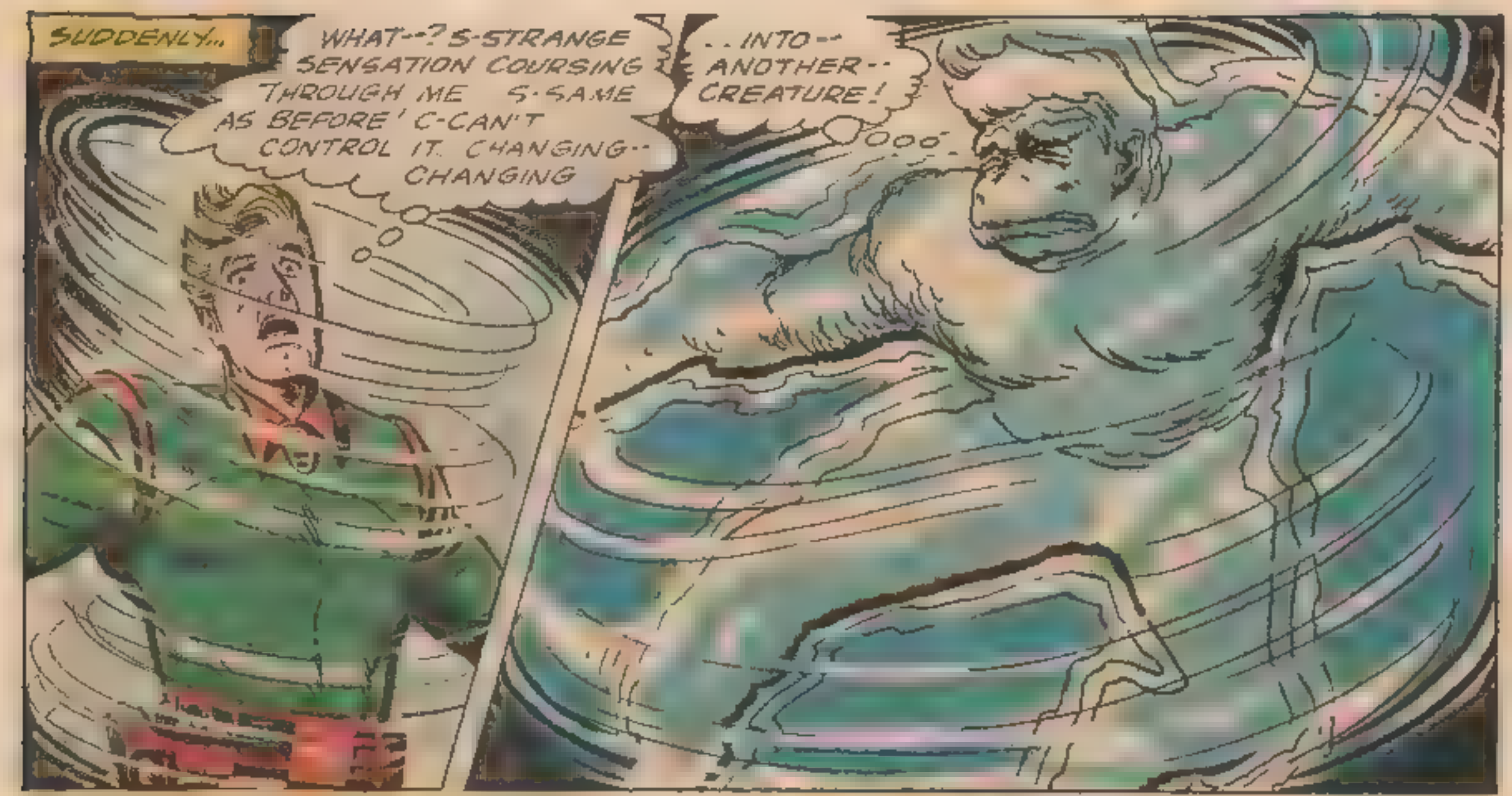
PUT YOUR NOSE TO THE DOT

(You'll "see" the delicious secret of a Tootsie Pop)

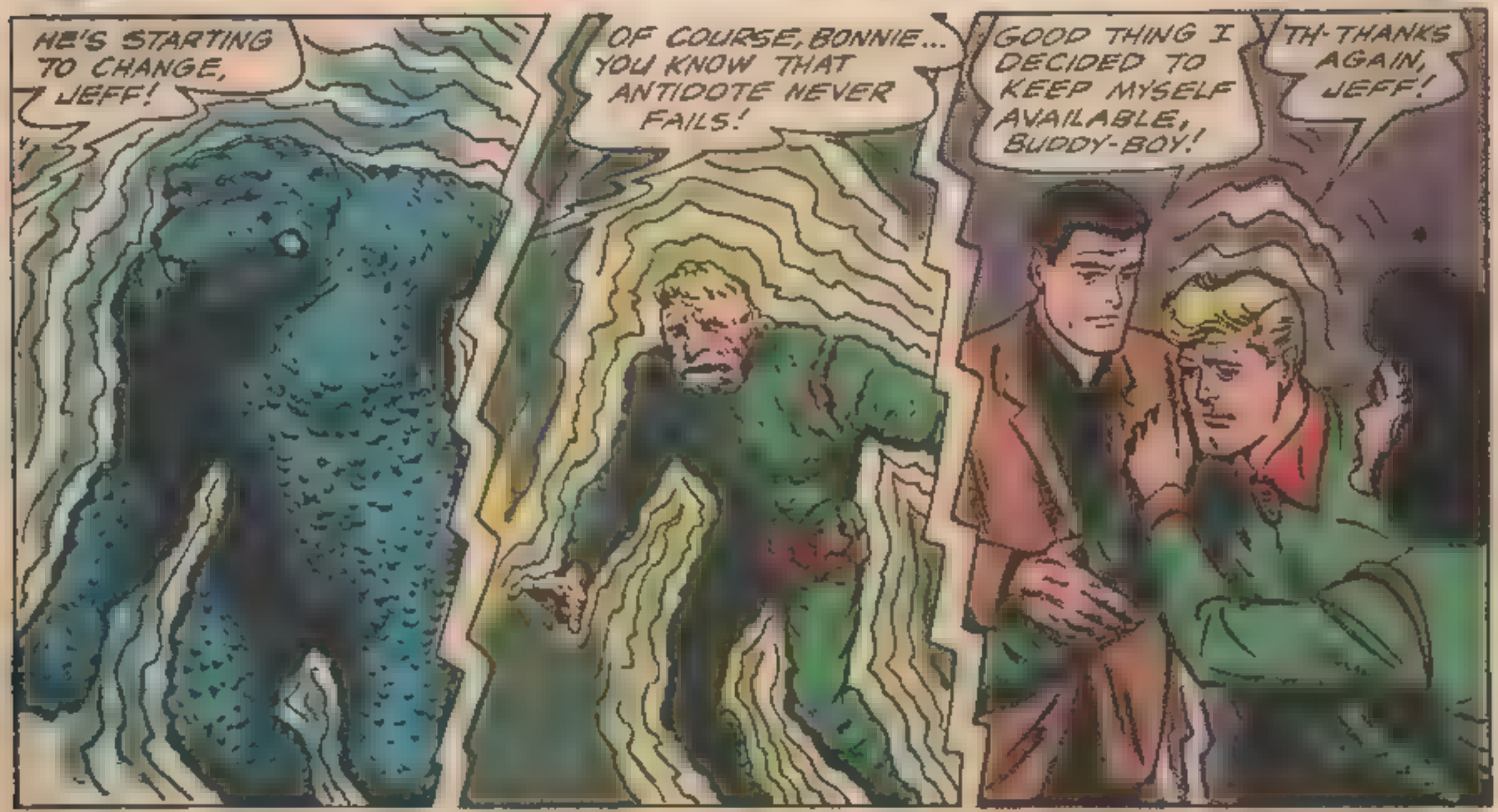
See! There's a Tootsie Roll inside...and hard candy outside. In six scrumptuous flavors too!

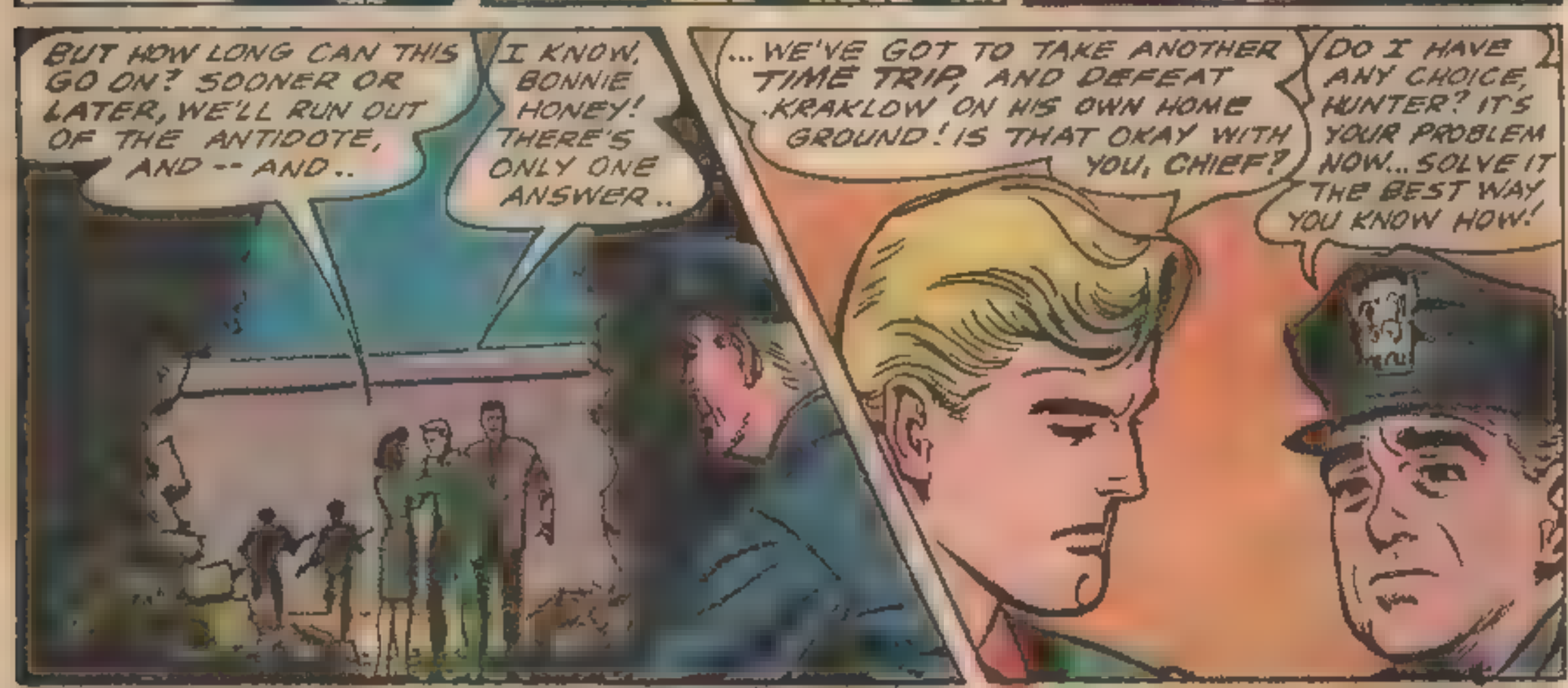
RIP HUNTER, the TIME CREATURE PART 2

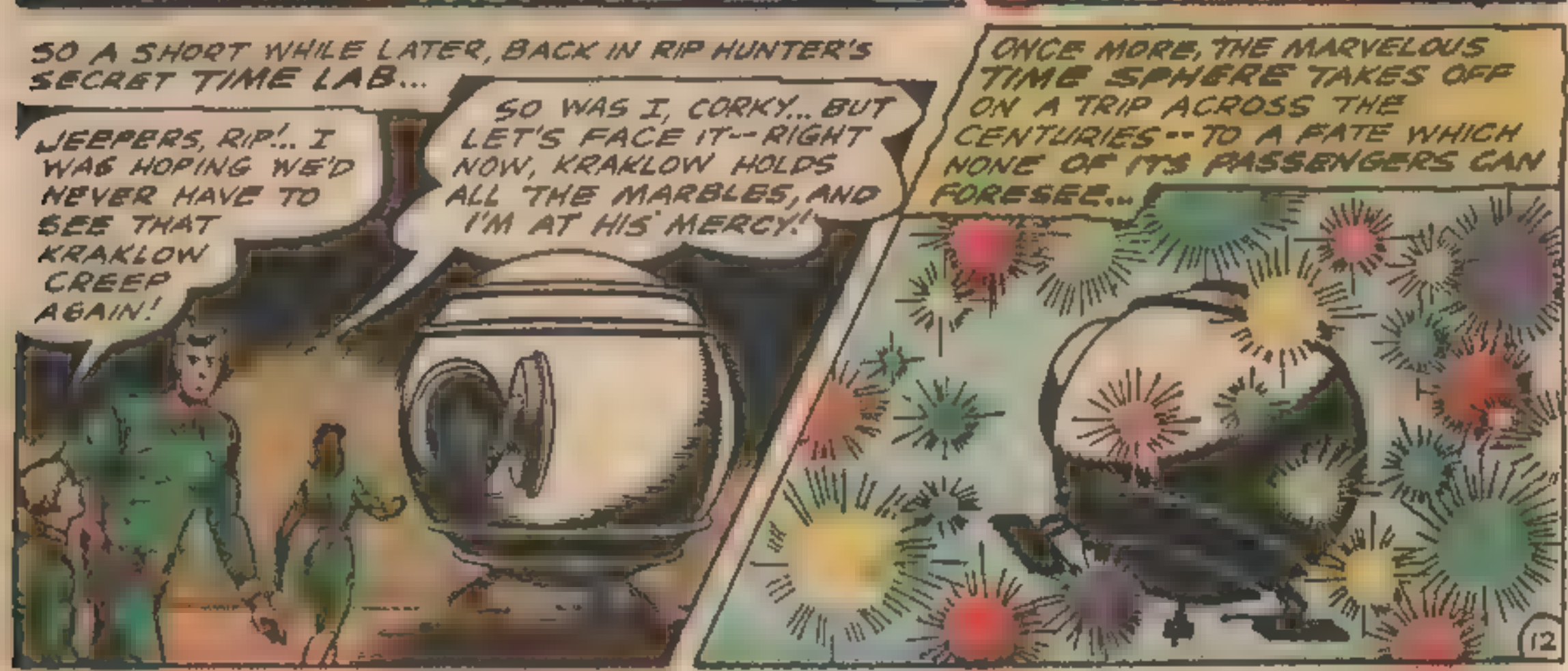


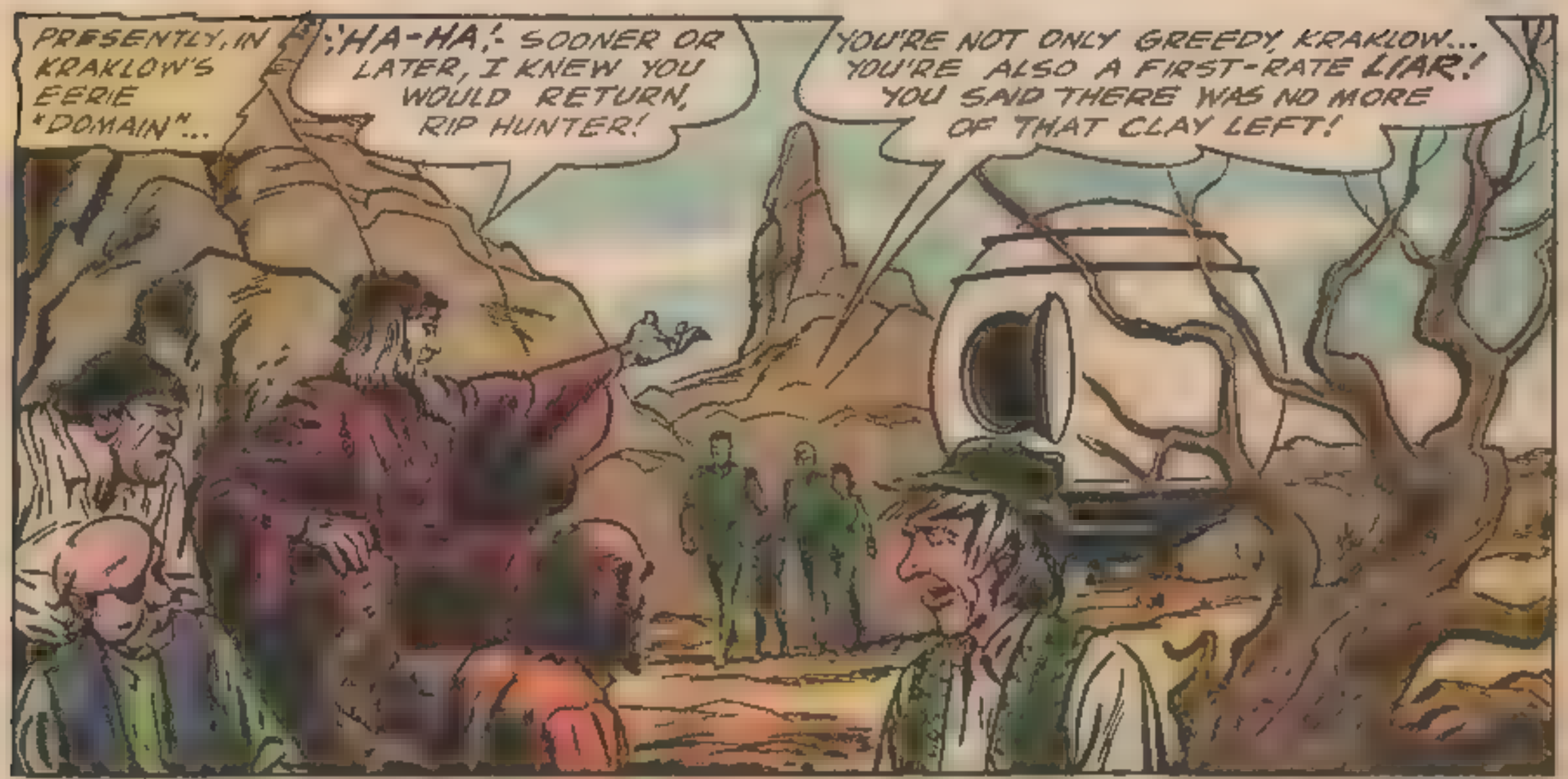

SUDDENLY...
WHAT--? S-STRANGE SENSATION COURSING THROUGH ME S-SAME AS BEFORE! C-CAN'T CONTROL IT. CHANGING-- CHANGING
..INTO-- ANOTHER-- CREATURE!

WITHIN A FEW BRIEF MOMENTS...
CRASH ROARR
SOUND THE ALARM! RIP HUNTER'S CHANGED TO A MONSTER AGAIN!
AGAIN, ALL OPPOSITION PROVES FUTILE AGAINST THE RAMPAGING TIME CREATURE.
SMASH CRUNCH
BANG BANG BAM
AND AGAIN, ONLY ONE FORCE PROVES ABLE TO HALT THE INVULNERABLE FLESH-AND-BLOOD JUGGERNAUT
POOOOF

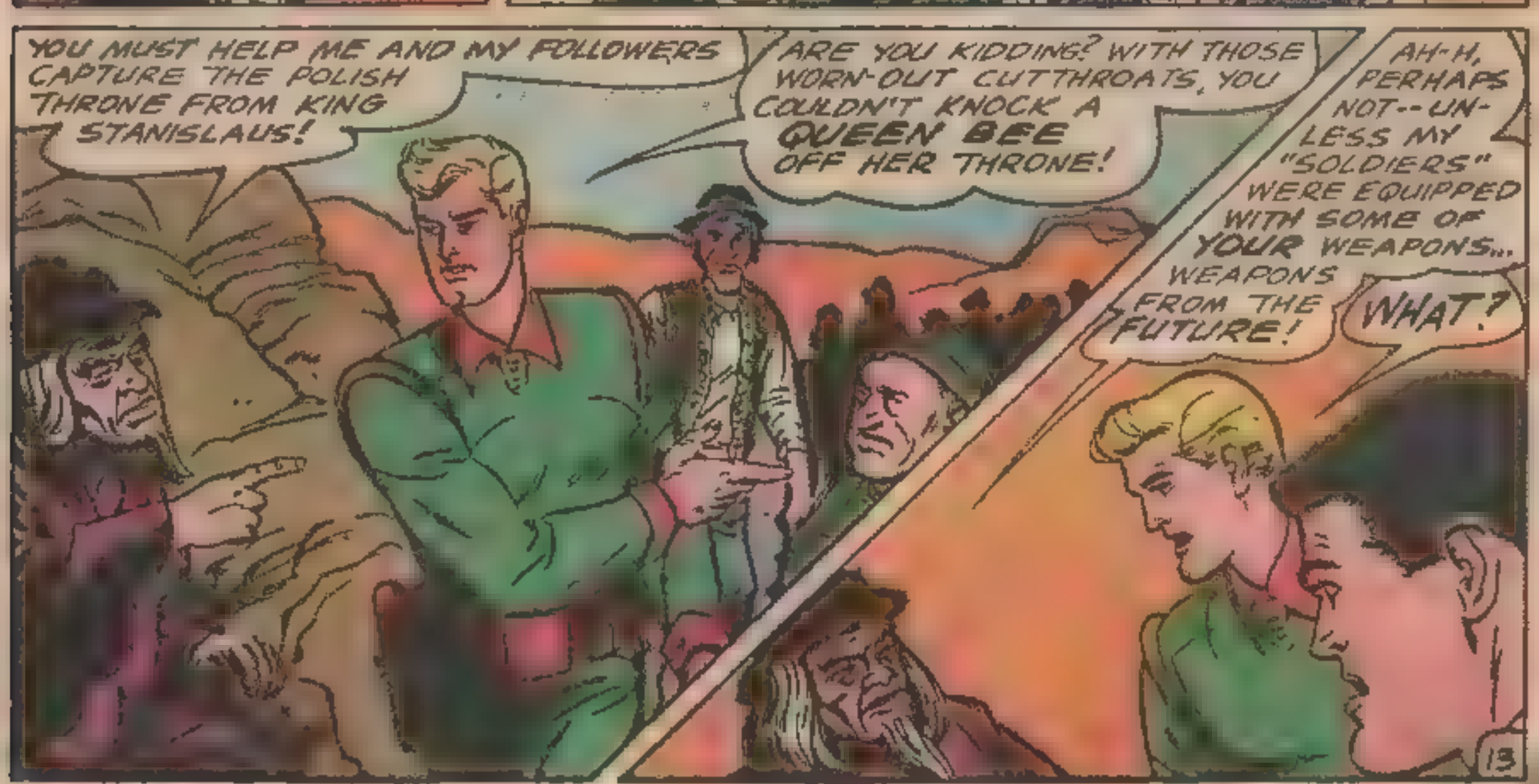

HE'S STARTING TO CHANGE, JEFF!
OF COURSE, BONNIE... YOU KNOW THAT ANTIDOTE NEVER FAILS!
GOOD THING I DECIDED TO KEEP MYSELF AVAILABLE, BUDDY-BOY!
TH-THANKS AGAIN, JEFF!

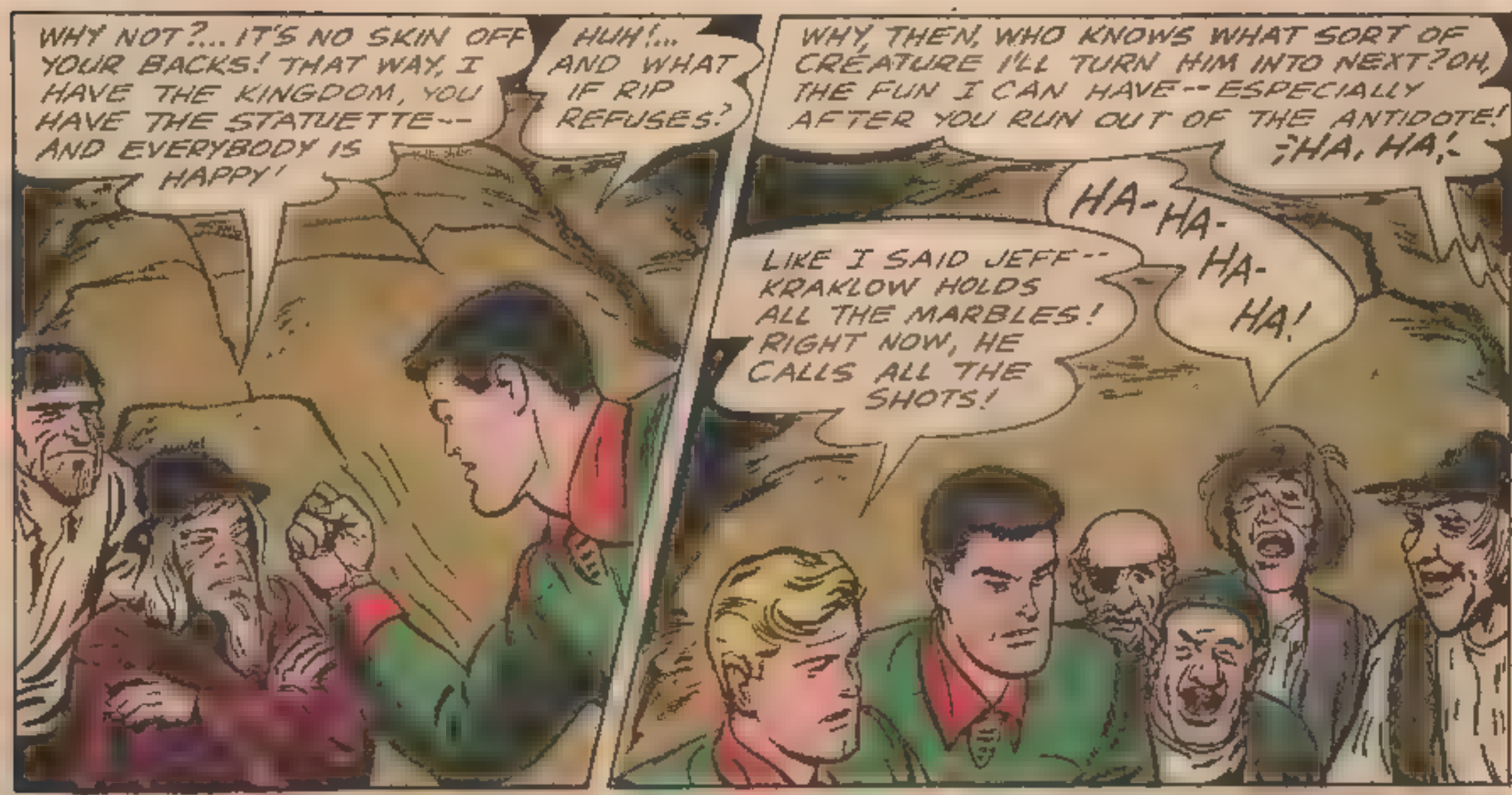

BUT HOW LONG CAN THIS GO ON? SOONER OR LATER, WE'LL RUN OUT OF THE ANTIDOTE, AND -- AND..
I KNOW, BONNIE HONEY! THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER..
...WE'VE GOT TO TAKE ANOTHER TIME TRIP, AND DEFEAT KRAKLOW ON HIS OWN HOME GROUND! IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU, CHIEF?
DO I HAVE ANY CHOICE, HUNTER? IT'S YOUR PROBLEM NOW... SOLVE IT THE BEST WAY YOU KNOW HOW!

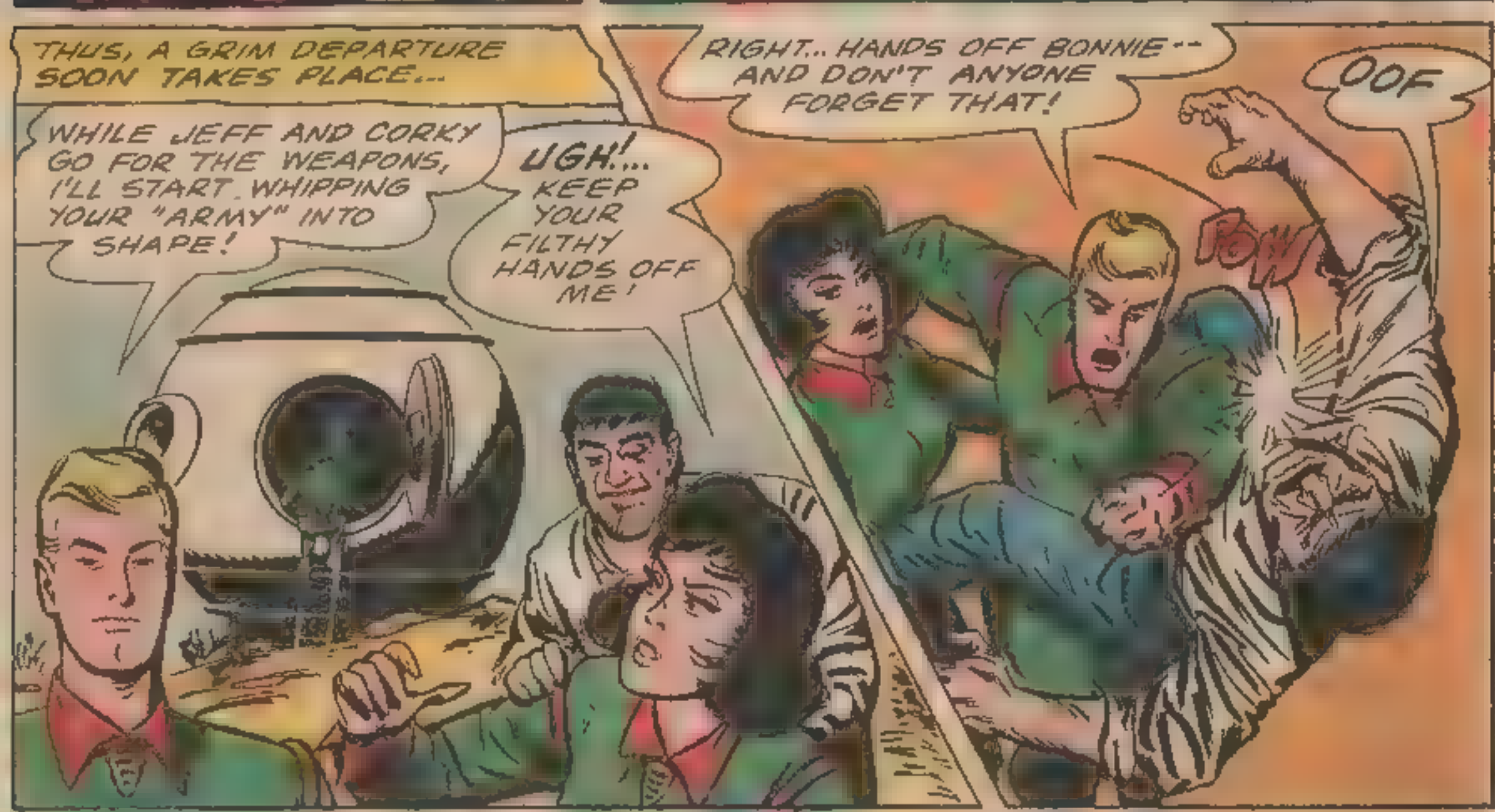

SO A SHORT WHILE LATER, BACK IN RIP HUNTER'S SECRET TIME LAB...
JEEPERS, RIP!.. I WAS HOPING WE'D NEVER HAVE TO SEE THAT KRAKLOW CREEP AGAIN!
SO WAS I, CORKY... BUT LET'S FACE IT -- RIGHT NOW, KRAKLOW HOLDS ALL THE MARBLES, AND I'M AT HIS MERCY!
ONCE MORE, THE MARVELOUS TIME SPHERE TAKES OFF ON A TRIP ACROSS THE CENTURIES -- TO A FATE WHICH NONE OF ITS PASSENGERS CAN FORESEE...

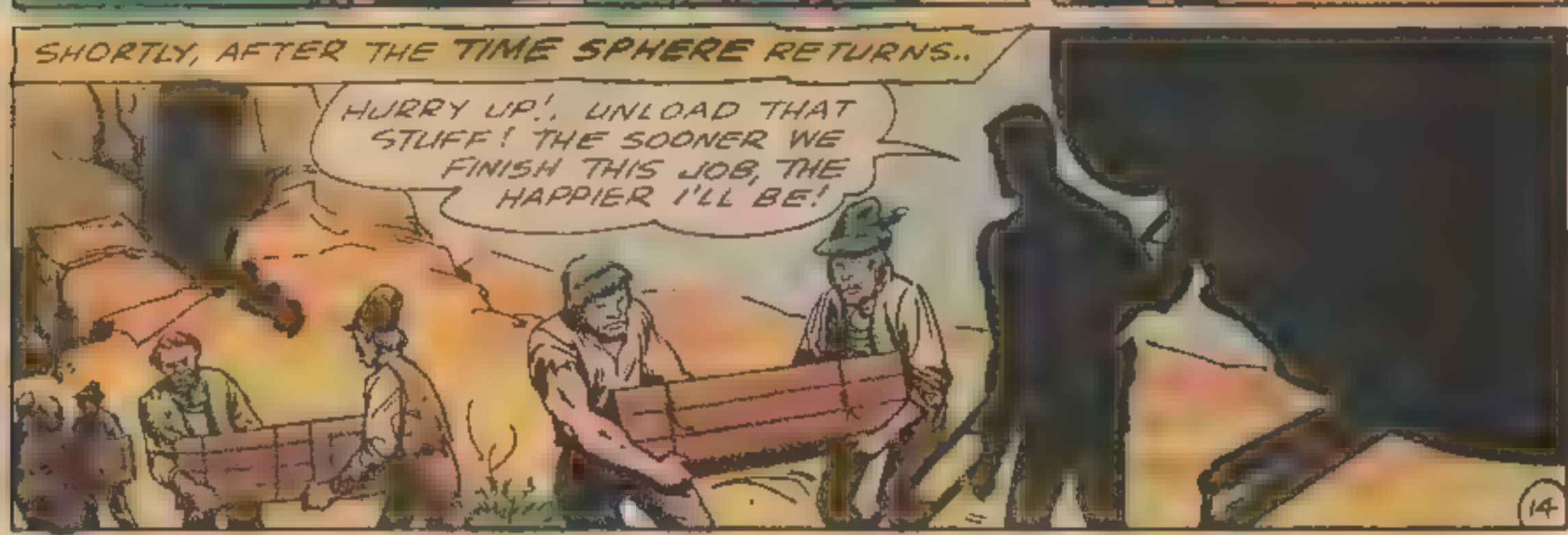

PRESENTLY, IN KRAKLOW'S EERIE "DOMAIN"...
;HA-HA! SOONER OR LATER, I KNEW YOU WOULD RETURN, RIP HUNTER!
YOU'RE NOT ONLY GREEDY, KRAKLOW... YOU'RE ALSO A FIRST-RATE LIAR! YOU SAID THERE WAS NO MORE OF THAT CLAY LEFT!

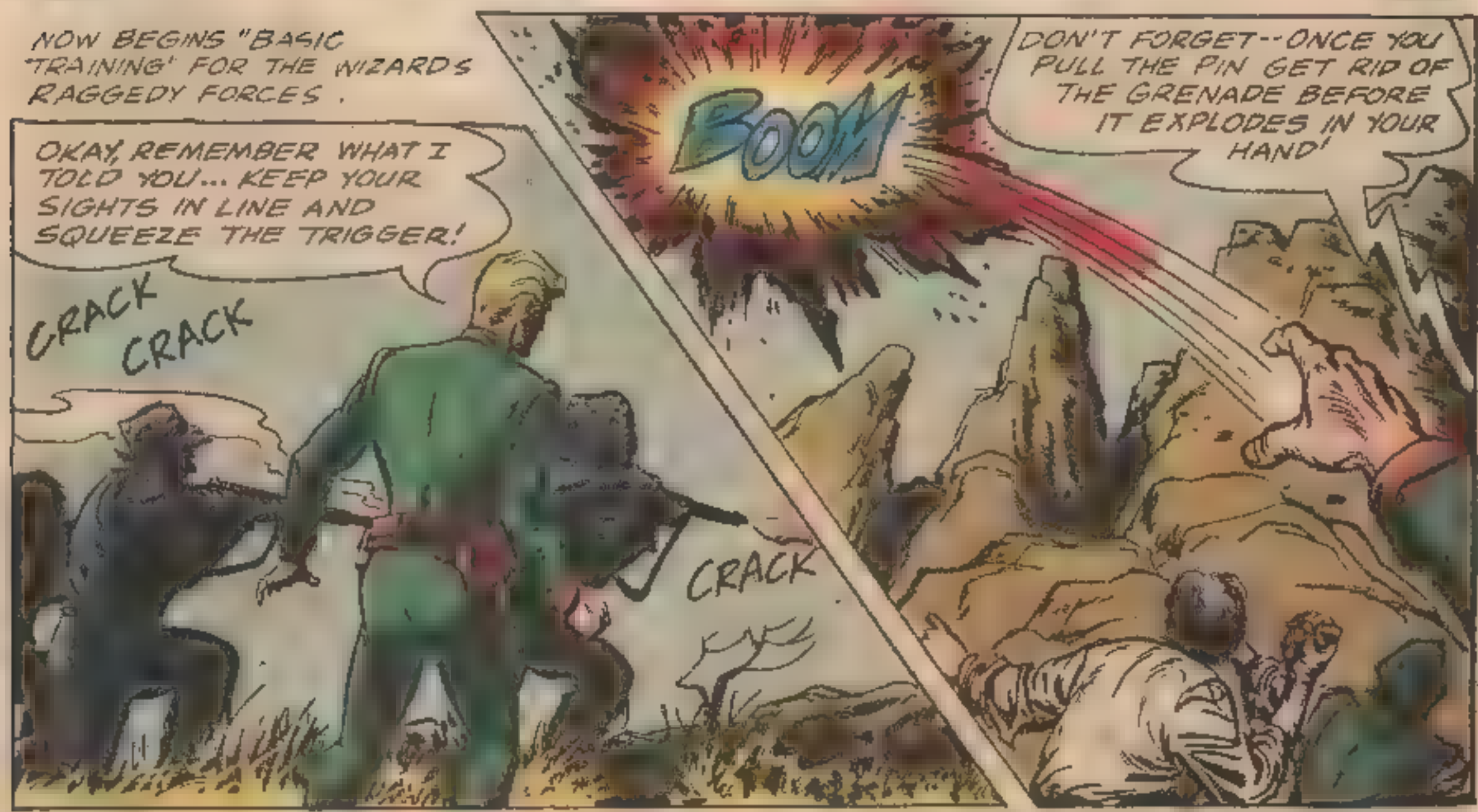
TCH-TCH... I DID FORGET TO MENTION THAT I HAD ENOUGH CLAY FOR ONE MORE STATUETTE, DIDN'T I? I ALSO FORGOT TO MENTION THAT I WOULD CARVE IT INTO YOUR LIKENESS SO THAT I MIGHT BLACK-MAIL YOU... TCH-TCH!
BLACKMAIL? WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, KRAKLOW?
;HEH-HEH! THE RIP HUNTER STATUETTE NOW RESTS IN A SAFE HIDING PLACE! I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU IN RETURN FOR ONE SMALL FAVOR...


YOU MUST HELP ME AND MY FOLLOWERS CAPTURE THE POLISH THRONE FROM KING STANISLAUS!
ARE YOU KIDDING? WITH THOSE WORN-OUT CUTTHROATS, YOU COULDN'T KNOCK A QUEEN BEE OFF HER THRONE!
AH-H, PERHAPS NOT--UNLESS MY "SOLDIERS" WERE EQUIPPED WITH SOME OF YOUR WEAPONS... WEAPONS FROM THE FUTURE!
WHAT?


WHY NOT?...IT'S NO SKIN OFF YOUR BACKS! THAT WAY, I HAVE THE KINGDOM, YOU HAVE THE STATUETTE--AND EVERYBODY IS HAPPY!
HUH!... AND WHAT IF RIP REFUSES?
WHY, THEN, WHO KNOWS WHAT SORT OF CREATURE I'LL TURN HIM INTO NEXT? OH, THE FUN I CAN HAVE--ESPECIALLY AFTER YOU RUN OUT OF THE ANTIDOTE! HA, HA!
HA-HA-HA-HA!
LIKE I SAID JEFF--KRAKLOW HOLDS ALL THE MARBLES! RIGHT NOW, HE CALLS ALL THE SHOTS!


THUS, A GRIM DEPARTURE SOON TAKES PLACE...
WHILE JEFF AND CORKY GO FOR THE WEAPONS, I'LL START WHIPPING YOUR "ARMY" INTO SHAPE!
UGH!... KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF ME!
RIGHT... HANDS OFF BONNIE--AND DON'T ANYONE FORGET THAT!
OOF
POW


SHORTLY, AFTER THE TIME SPHERE RETURNS..
HURRY UP!, UNLOAD THAT STUFF! THE SOONER WE FINISH THIS JOB, THE HAPPIER I'LL BE!


NOW BEGINS "BASIC TRAINING" FOR THE WIZARD'S RAGGEDY FORCES.
OKAY, REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU... KEEP YOUR SIGHTS IN LINE AND SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER!
CRACK CRACK
CRACK
BOOM
DON'T FORGET--ONCE YOU PULL THE PIN GET RID OF THE GRENADE BEFORE IT EXPLODES IN YOUR HAND!

AS YOU CAN SEE, A MORTAR CAN DESTROY A TARGET HUNDREDS OF YARDS AWAY!
VROOOSH
BA-BOOM
ABOUT FACE! I SAID ABOUT FACE! OH-H-H... IF I EVER GO TO WAR, I HOPE THE ENEMY RESEMBLES YOU GALOOTS!

SOME DAYS LATER, RIP HUNTER MAKES A GRIM ANNOUNCEMENT..
YOUR ARMY IS READY, KRAKLÓW!
AT LAST! PREPARE THEM TO MARCH ON THE PALACE!
;GASP! I--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, CORKY... RIP HELPING THIS EVIL WIZARD TAKE OVER THE WHOLE COUNTRY!

SOON, OUTSIDE THE GATES OF THE ANCIENT POLISH CAPITAL...

HEAR ME, KING STANISLAUS! I ORDER YOU TO SURRENDER NOW, LEST YOU TASTE THE WRATH OF MY MIGHTY MAGIC!

HEAR ME, KRAKLOW! YOUR FOOLISH WIZARDRY FRIGHTENS ME NOT! MY TROOPS AWAIT MY COMMAND TO DEMOLISH YOU!

HA-HA!- DO YOUR JOB, "GENERAL" RIP HUNTER! MY TROOPS AWAIT YOUR COMMAND!

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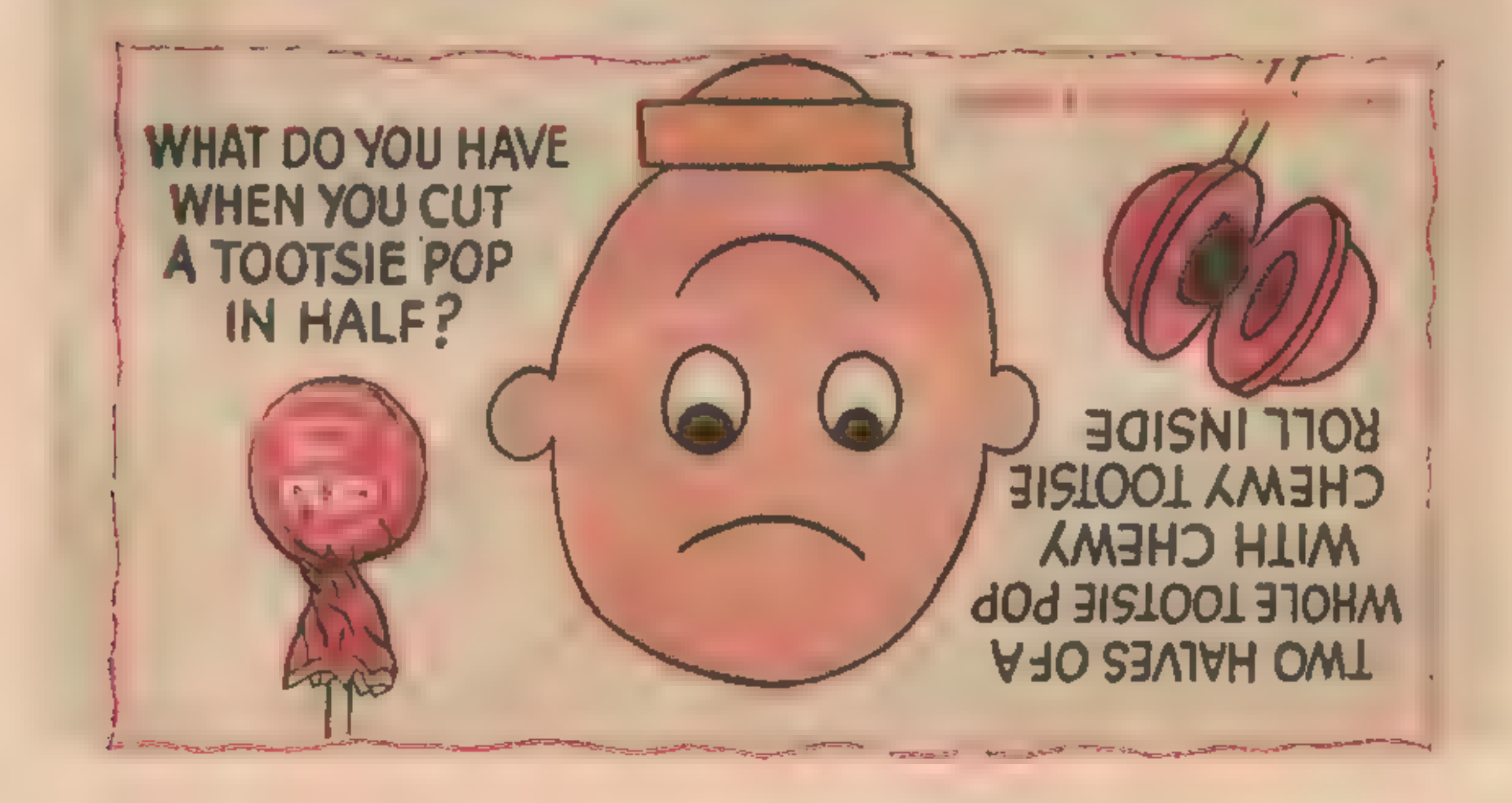
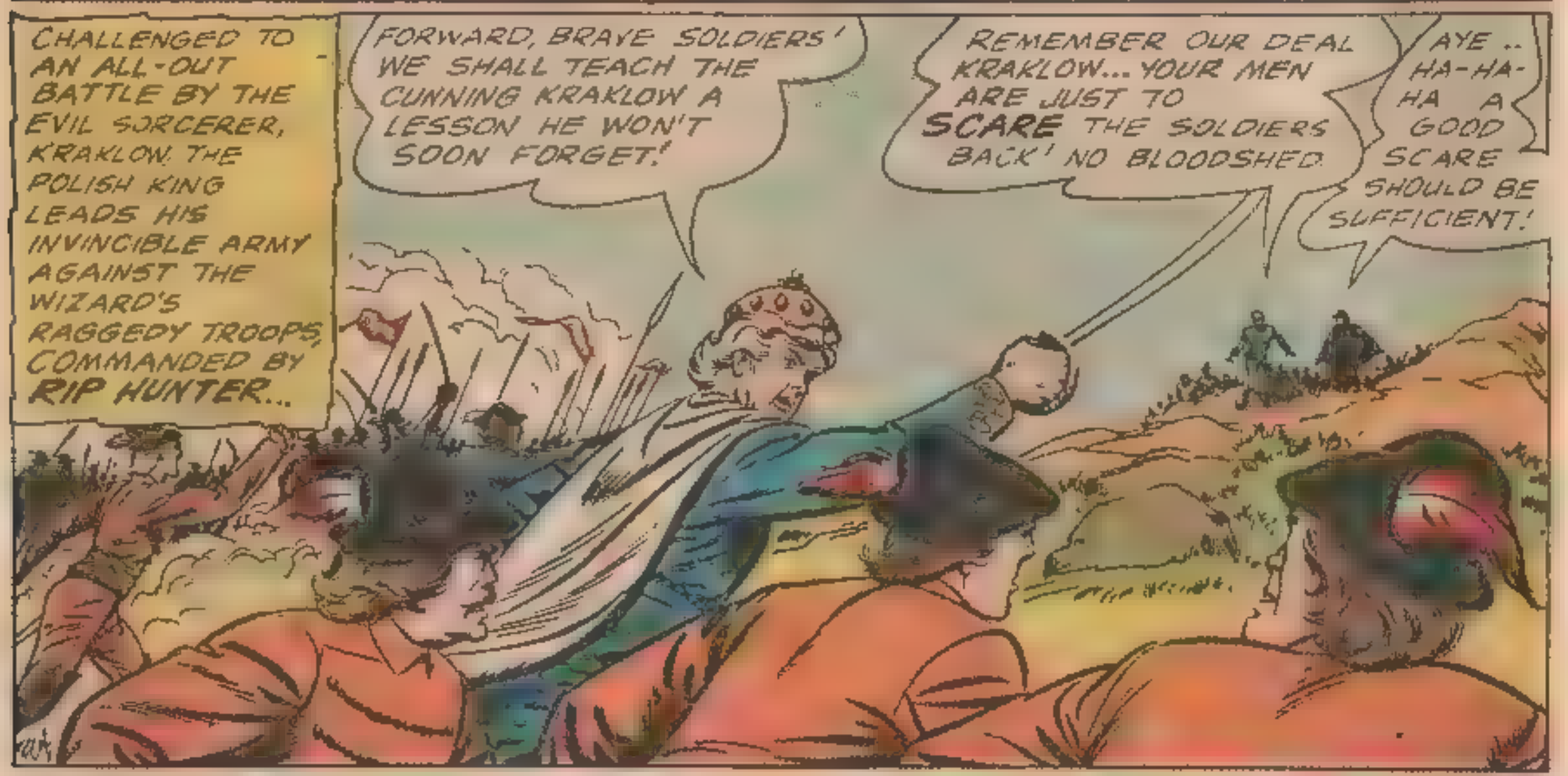
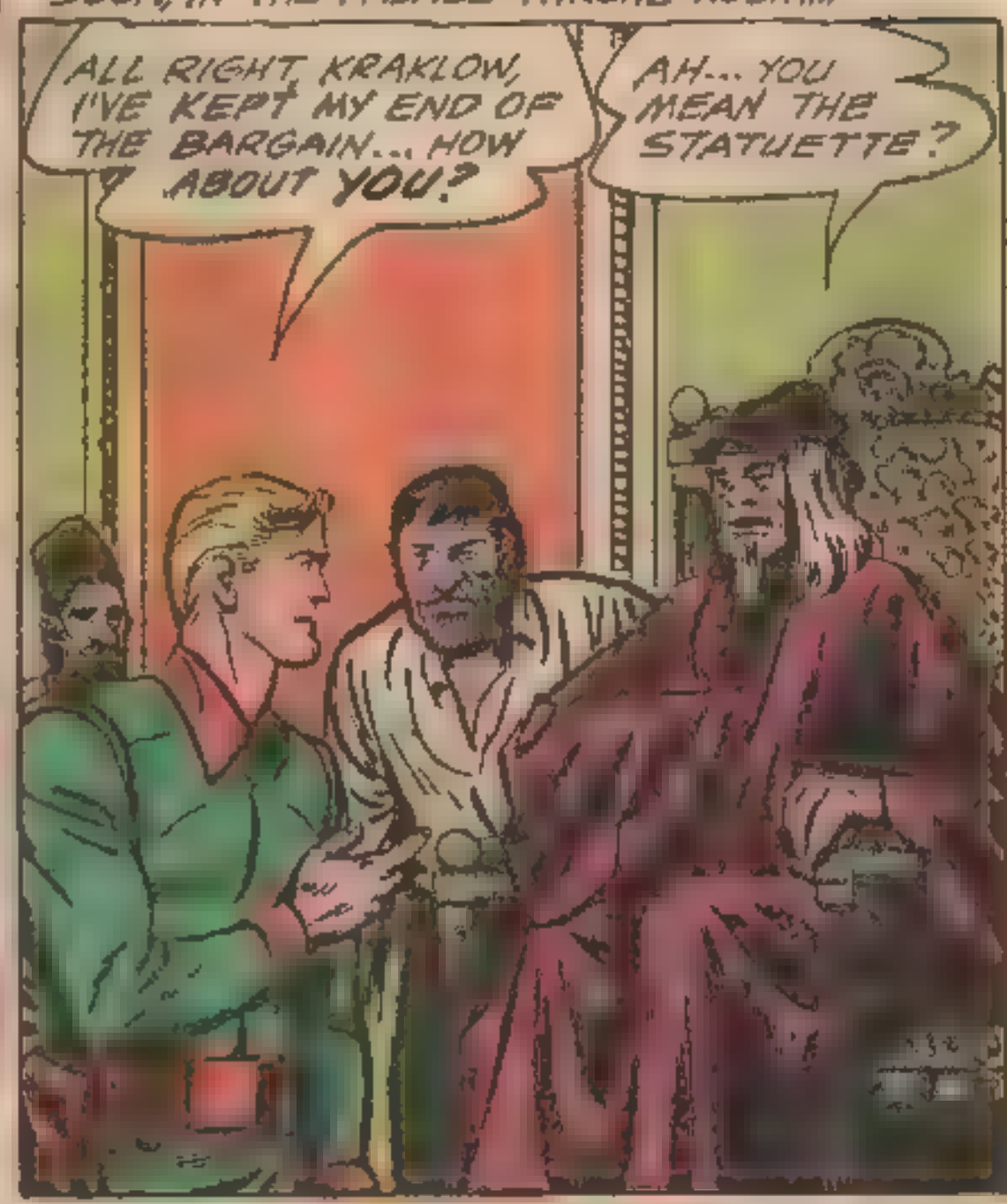


RIP HUNTER, the TIME CREATURE PART 3



AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE BRAVE MONARCH RALLIES HIS FORCES...
FORWARD ONCE MORE! SHOW KRAKLOW WE DO NOT FRIGHTEN EASILY!
BUT, WITH EACH CHARGE...
BOOM
AIEEEE! THERE IS NO END TO KRAKLOW'S POWER!
FWHOOM
BRA-TA-TA-TAT
FINALLY COMES THE FATEFUL ULTIMATUM..
HEAR ME NOW KING STANISLAUS! THE NEXT TIME WE FIRE, IT WILL BE TO KILL! WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?
YOU KNOW I WOULD NOT SACRIFICE MY MEN'S LIVES NEEDLESSLY, KRAKLOW! TAKE THE KINGDOM... IT IS YOURS!
HA, HA, HA! HEAR THAT, FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS? THE KINGDOM IS MINE... KRAKLOW RULES ALL OF POLAND!
WHOOPIE!
WHEEE

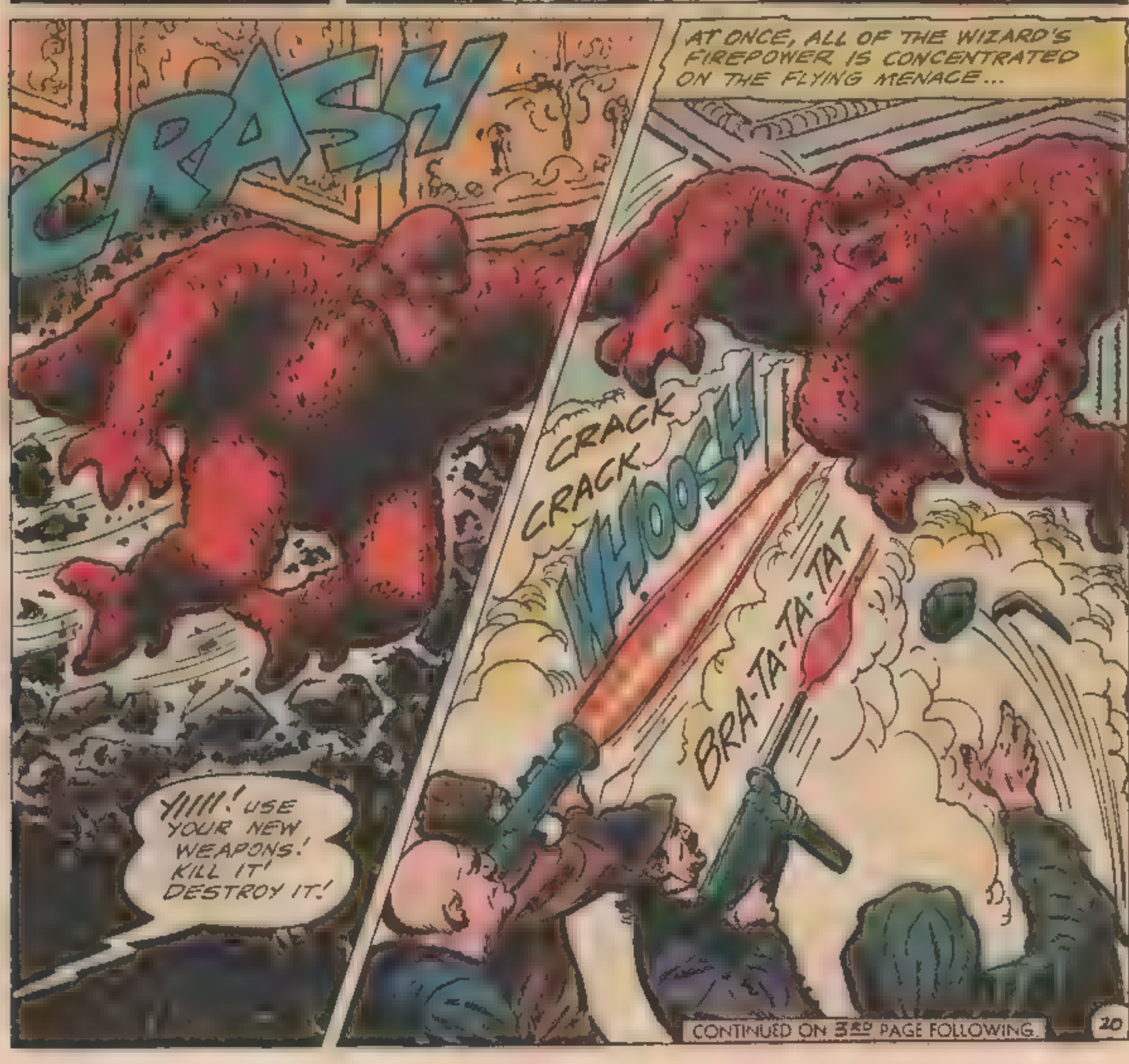
AND SO, SHORTLY AFTERWARD, COMES A BIZARRE VICTORY PARADE THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CAPITAL...


SOON, IN THE PALACE THRONE ROOM...
ALL RIGHT, KRAKLOW, I'VE KEPT MY END OF THE BARGAIN... HOW ABOUT YOU?
AH... YOU MEAN THE STATUETTE?

TAKE IT -- AND BEGONE! I HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR YOU!

AMID HOOTS AND JEERS, THE SADDENED TIME TRAVELERS MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO THE TIME SPHERE...
THERE HE IS... THE ONE WHO HELPED KRAKLOW OVERTHROW OUR KING!
FIEND! YOU HAVE BROUGHT EVIL DAYS UPON US!
AYE... AND EVIL SHALL BEFALL YOU-- MARK MY WORDS!

IN THE MEANTIME, AS THE NEW "KING" ADDRESSES HIS SUBJECTS...
LET ALL OF POLAND PAY HEED! IF YOU LOVE STANISLAUS--IF YOU WISH HIM TO REMAIN ALIVE--YOU WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO KRAKLOW!



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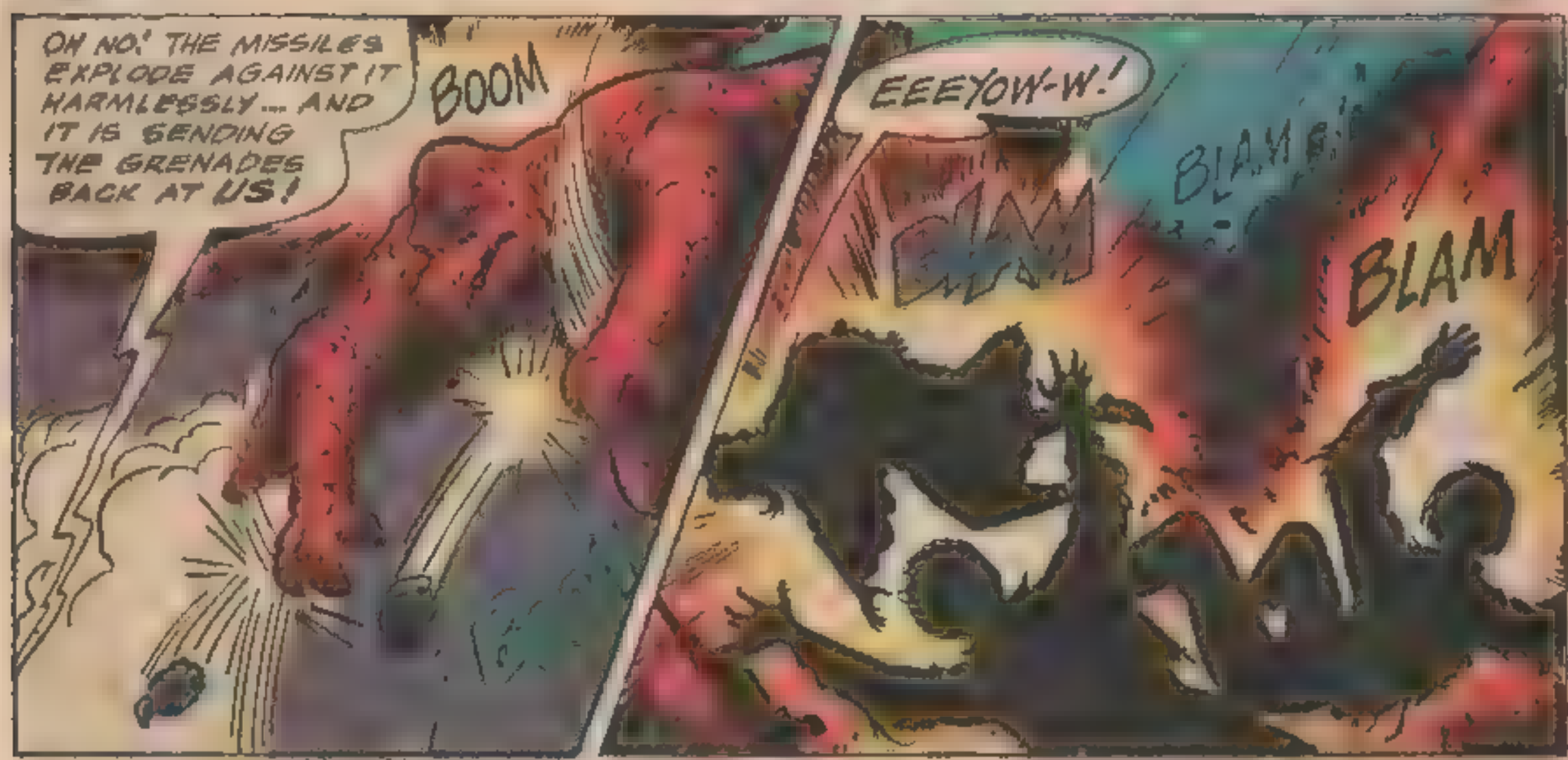
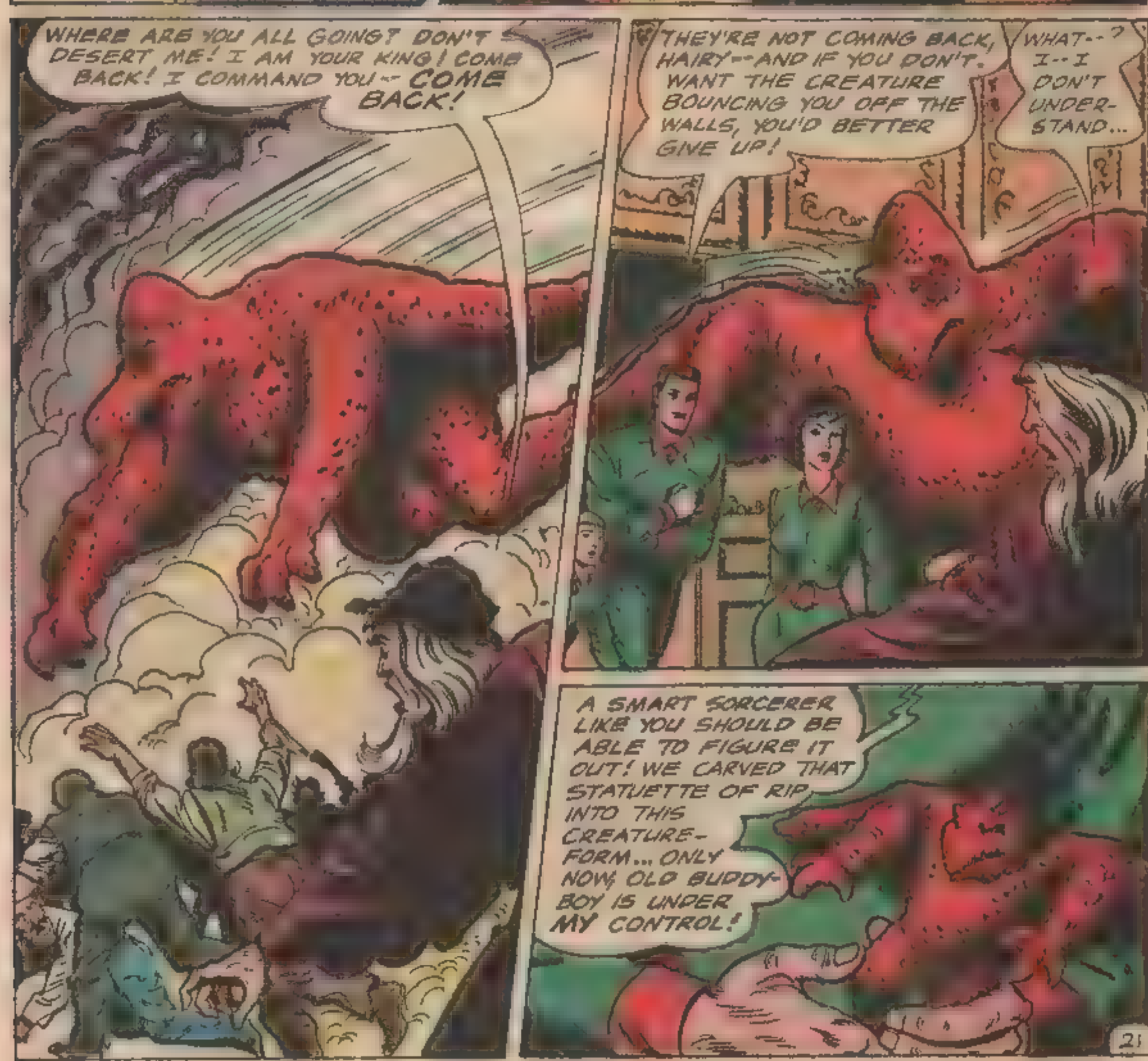
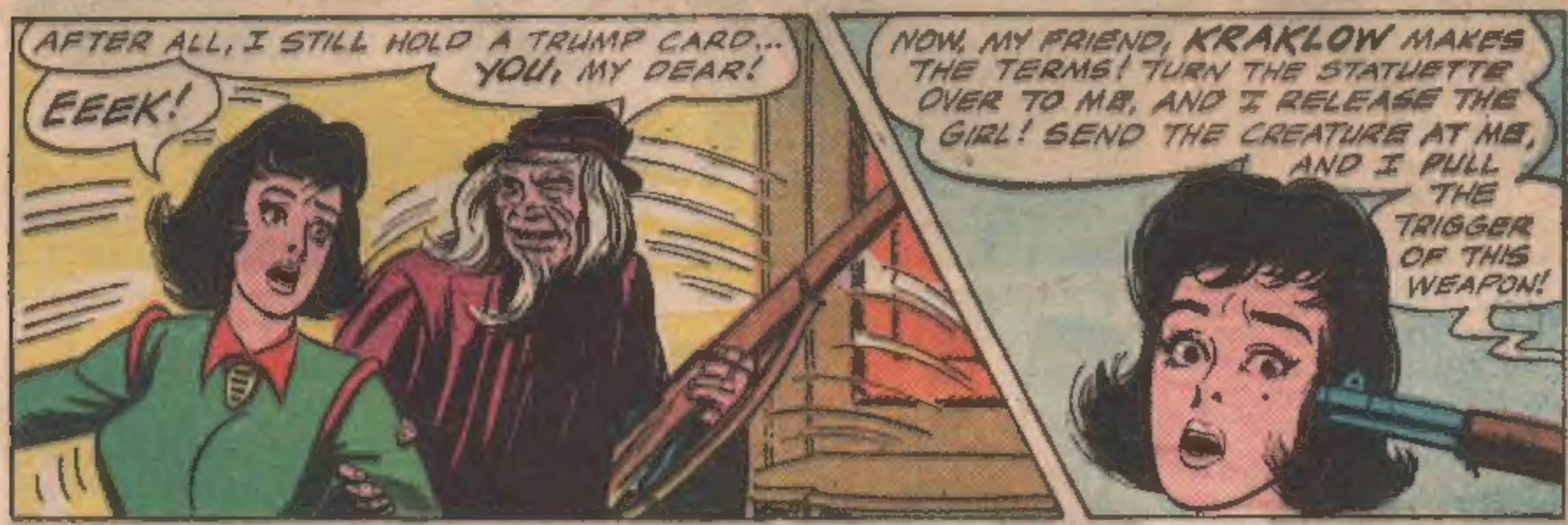

OH NO! THE MISSILES EXPLODE AGAINST IT HARMLESSLY... AND IT IS SENDING THE GRENADES BACK AT US!
BOOM
EEEYOW-W!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

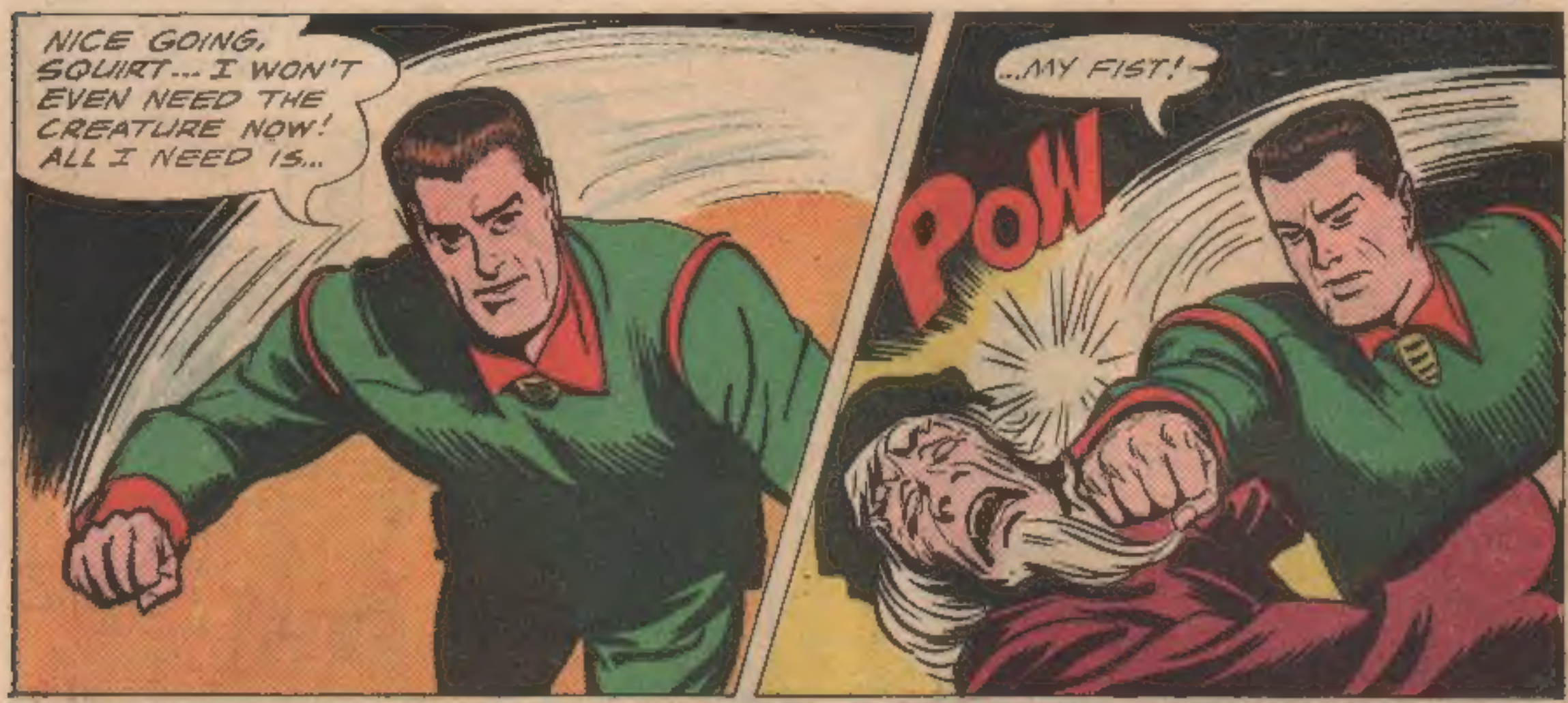

WHERE ARE YOU ALL GOING? DON'T DESERT ME! I AM YOUR KING! COME BACK! I COMMAND YOU -- COME BACK!
THEY'RE NOT COMING BACK, HAIRY -- AND IF YOU DON'T WANT THE CREATURE BOUNCING YOU OFF THE WALLS, YOU'D BETTER GIVE UP!
WHAT-- ? I-- I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
A SMART SORCERER LIKE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT! WE CARVED THAT STATUETTE OF RIP INTO THIS CREATURE-FORM... ONLY NOW, OLD BUDDY-BOY IS UNDER MY CONTROL!

SO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET TORN APART, TURN YOURSELF OVER TO KING STANISLAUS, AND WE'LL CALL IT A DEAL!
IT SEEMS I HAVE NO CHOICE! YET... HEH, HEH... SHOULDN'T WE TALK THINGS OVER?


AFTER ALL, I STILL HOLD A TRUMP CARD... YOU, MY DEAR!
EEEK!
NOW, MY FRIEND, KRAKLOW MAKES THE TERMS! TURN THE STATUETTE OVER TO ME, AND I RELEASE THE GIRL! SEND THE CREATURE AT ME, AND I PULL THE TRIGGER OF THIS WEAPON!

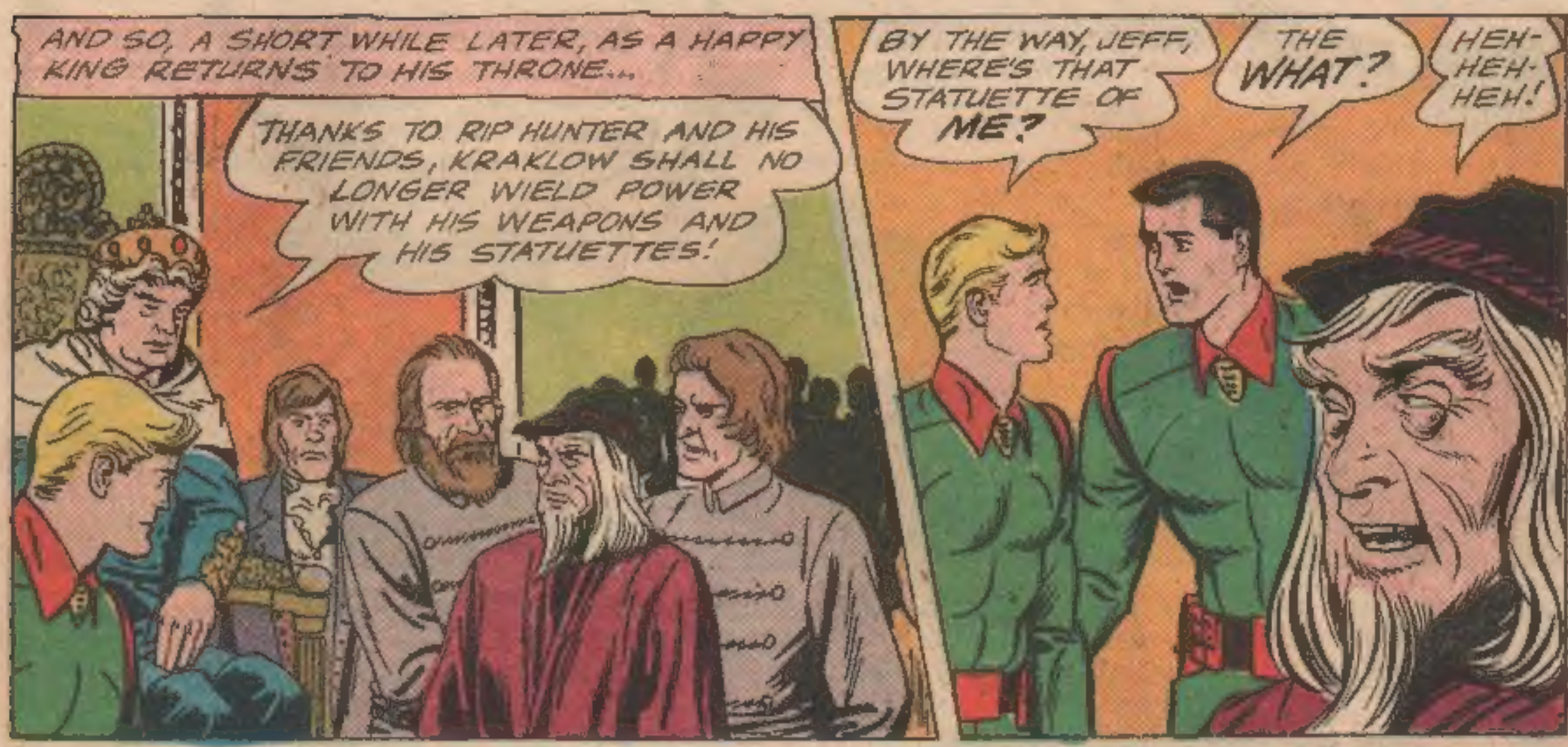
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I--I DON'T KNOW! I CAN'T LET YOU GAIN CONTROL OF RIP AGAIN, BUT--BUT I CAN'T LET BONNIE DIE EITHER...
FORGET ABOUT ME, JEFF! RIP IS MORE IMPORTANT... SAVE RIP!

AT THAT MOMENT...
MAYBE THIS'LL HELP JEFF MAKE UP HIS MIND!
YOW!
CORKY!


NICE GOING, SQUIRT... I WON'T EVEN NEED THE CREATURE NOW! ALL I NEED IS...
...MY FIST!
POW

NOW-- SOMEONE GO FIND KING STANISLAUS! TELL HIM HE CAN HAVE HIS THRONE BACK ANY TIME HE WANTS IT!
CHECK!
AS FOR YOU, UGLY, HAVE A LITTLE ANTIDOTE, COURTESY OF BIG JEFF!

ONCE MORE, THE COUNTERACTING POWDERS TAKE SWIFT EFFECT...
BONNIE... H-HOW DID MY PLAN WORK OUT?
PERFECTLY, RIP DARLING... EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT NOW!


AND SO, A SHORT WHILE LATER, AS A HAPPY KING RETURNS TO HIS THRONE...
THANKS TO RIP HUNTER AND HIS FRIENDS, KRAKLOW SHALL NO LONGER WIELD POWER WITH HIS WEAPONS AND HIS STATUETTES!
BY THE WAY, JEFF, WHERE'S THAT STATUETTE OF ME?
THE WHAT?
HEH-HEH-HEH!

-GULP- IN ALL THAT EXCITEMENT, I--I MUST'VE DROPPED IT SOMEWHERE!
OH--NO!
SCOUR THE PALACE--EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY! IT'S GOT TO BE SOMEWHERE!
YEAH--MAYBE EVEN ON KRAKLOW!
HA-HA... YOU'LL NEVER FIND IT... HA, HA, HA!

SURE ENOUGH, AFTER A THOROUGH SEARCH...
IT'S NO USE...THE THING'S SIMPLY VANISHED!
NO MATTER...IT WILL SURELY NOT TURN UP IN THE DUNGEON WHERE KRAKLOW SHALL SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS!

WHAT'S ALL THE HULLABALOO ABOUT?

IT'S FOR THE SENSATIONAL "COMEBACK" OF TWO OF THE GREATEST SUPER-STARS IN DC'S HISTORY--

STARMAN and BLACK CANARY!

YOU'RE IN FOR A REAL SHINDIG WHEN THE ASTRAL AVENGER and BLONDE BOMBSHELL SWING INTO DOUBLE-ACTION ADVENTURES IN THE LATEST THRILL-FILLED ISSUE OF

NOW ON SALE!